Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for treating chronic wounds in humans comprising:

providing a kit comprising a nonpyrogenic biocompatible microbial cellulose dressing and a moisture-proof package containing said dressing;

applying ~~a~~ said nonpyrogenic, biocompatible ~~wound dressing to a chronic wound of a subject,~~ cellulose dressing to the wound site;

wherein said ~~the wound~~ microbial cellulose dressing ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of ~~water and~~ from 1.5%~~, by weight~~ to ~~7%~~ 4.5% ~~by weight of~~ microbial cellulose by weight and water, and wherein the wound dressing is capable of donating ~~absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates~~ greater than ~~60%~~ 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of ~~a~~ said chronic wound and absorbing liquid in an amount effective for treatment of a chronic wound.

2. (previously presented) The method for treating chronic wounds of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:

changing the wound dressing once weekly.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of from 3% to ~~7%~~ 4.5% cellulose by weight.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of from 4% to ~~6%~~ 4.5% cellulose by weight.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said chronic wound is a full or partial thickness chronic wound.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a venous ulcer.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a pressure ulcer.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a diabetic ulcer.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing exhibits a negative result in a Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) test (<0.5 EU/ml) and is thereby nonpyrogenic.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the wound dressing exhibits a negative primary irritation test in rabbits and a negative cytotoxicity test using marine L929 cells, and also passes a guinea pig sensitization test and is thereby biocompatible.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the wound dressing donates 75% to about 95% of its liquid weight ~~absorbs a weight of liquid equal to about 20% to about 200% of the wound dressing's weight~~.

12.-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method for preparing a wound dressing comprising:

statically producing a microbial cellulose pellicle using *Acetobacter xylinum*;

isolating the pellicle with a cellulose to water ratio in the range of ~~about~~ 1:100 to ~~about~~ 1:500;

and drying the isolated pellicle to form a dressing consisting essentially of ~~a cellulose content of~~ 1.5 to ~~9~~ 4.5 wt.%; ~~and forming a wound dressing by cutting the isolated pellicle~~ microbial cellulose and water and said dressing capable of donating greater than 75% of its

liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound and absorbing liquid in an amount effective for treatment of a chronic wound;

placing said dressing in a moisture proof package; and

providing instructions for applying the microbial cellulose dressing to said chronic wound.

20.-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing promotes autolytic debridement and removal of necrotic tissue in chronic wounds.

27. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing performs better in cleansing wound margins and promoting epithelial migration compared to a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

28. (previously presented) A method of claim 1 wherein a lower median number of days are required to attain 75% or more granulation than for a chronic wound treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

29. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein a lower median number of days is required to attain 50% or more epithelialization than for a chronic wound treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

30. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject associated with the wound, ranges from none to mild.

31. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject is less than that which is experienced by a subject treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~32~~ 1, wherein the microbial cellulose wound dressing consists of water and from 1.5 to 4.5 wt.% of microbial cellulose, wherein the wound dressing absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates greater than 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound.

34. (currently amended) In a method of treating a wound of a subject where pain is associated with the wound, the improvement comprising applying a dress ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of from 1.5% to ~~9%~~ 4.5% wt.% microbial cellulose and water to the wound of a subject in need thereof, which reduces the pain experienced by the subject compared to the pain experienced when a non-adhesive gauze dressing is used.

35. (canceled)

36. (new) The method of claim 19 wherein said microbial cellulose is purified by exposure at 30 to 100 °C for about 1 to 4 hours.

37. (new) A method for preparing a wound dressing comprising:

providing a nonpyrogenic biocompatible microbial cellulose dressing; said dressing consisting essentially of 1.5% to 4.5% microbial cellulose by weight and water, and wherein the wound dressing is capable of donating greater than 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of said chronic wound and absorbing liquid in an amount effective for treatment of a chronic wound;

placing said microbial cellulose dressing in a moisture-proof package.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of providing instructions for applying the microbial cellulose dressing to said chronic wound.